

Filed for intro on 02/22/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate No. SR0004  
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION relative to cable television programming  
in Memphis.

WHEREAS, beginning March 1, 1995, Time Warner Cable in Memphis will no longer broadcast C-SPAN on a twenty-four (24) hour per day basis; and

WHEREAS, instead, C-SPAN will share space with VH-1 on a different channel on the cable system, and will only be broadcasted for twelve (12) hours per day; and

WHEREAS, C-SPAN will be replaced on Channel 20 by a local television station that broadcasts home shopping programming exclusively on a twenty-four (24) hour basis; and

WHEREAS, Time Warner Cable had no choice except to include this local station as part of the cable system's programming: according to federal law, cable systems must broadcast local stations if they ask to be included on the system; and

WHEREAS, however, Time Warner Cable does have a choice relative to what cable networks to discontinue or shift around in order to free up space on the system for this local station; and

WHEREAS, Time Warner Cable has apparently decided that the popular music channel VH-1 is at least as important as C-SPAN, because VH-1 will air twelve (12) hours per day on the same channel on which C-SPAN is broadcasted; and

WHEREAS, C-SPAN, the public affairs cable network, sponsored by the cable industry, broadcasts the proceedings of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, as well as call-in shows, news conferences and other political and public affairs programming; and

WHEREAS, C-SPAN thus provides the average citizen with the opportunity to keep abreast of what issues his or her federal government is considering on a day-to-day basis; and

WHEREAS, C-SPAN permits citizens to watch the democratic process in action, whether it be committee meetings, floor debate or a frank and open discussion of important issues in another forum; and

WHEREAS, access to the type of political and governmental information that C-SPAN airs is the hallmark of a representative democracy and a necessary ingredient for good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Time Warner's decision to limit C-SPAN's airtime to twelve (12) hours per day is especially disturbing in light of the fact that the cable system already broadcasts two (2) other home shopping networks, one (1) of them, QVC, on a twenty-four (24) hour basis; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this General Assembly that unlimited access to the quality public affairs programming which characterizes C-SPAN should be available to the citizens of Memphis, in order that they can make intelligent and well-informed decisions relative to their participation in the public affairs of our nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby most fervently urge and encourage Time Warner Cable to continue broadcasting C-SPAN on a twenty-four (24) hour per day basis on its Memphis cable system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the general manager of Time Warner Cable of Memphis.

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